

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 AID-20 DRC-01

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R 151348Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 885

INFO USCINCSO

AMCONSUL CALI UNN

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 0359

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB ORIT CO

SUBJ: UNION OF COLOMBIAN WORKERS (UTC) PRES CUEVAS MIGHT ACCEPT
ORIT SECRETARY GENERALSHIP

1. LABATT SPOKE WITH UTC PRGS TULIO CUEVAS JAN 14 ABOUT STORY IN BOGOTA DAILY EL TIEMPO JAN 10 THAT HE WAS A CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION TO ORIT AS SEC GEN. CUEVAS SAID HE WAS NOT A CANDIDATE BUT SAID THAT HE MIGHT ACCEPT THE POSITION UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, IF THE PRESENT SEC GEN ARTURO JAUREGUI IS OUSTED OR RESIGNS FOR THE ORIT CONGRESS BEGINNING JAN 28.

2. CUEVAS SAID THAT THE UTC WOULD NOT FIGHT AGAINST OR CAMPAIGN FOR ANY CANDIDATE AND THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT THE POST ONLY IF THERE WAS AN ABSOLUTE CONSENSUS THAT HE WAS NEEDED TO SALVAGE THE ORGANIZATION. HE SAID THAT THE CONSENSUS WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE A GUARANTEE THAT ORIT WOULD BE RESTRUCTURED, THAT HE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO HIRE QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO RUN THE ORG, AND THAT ADEQUATE FINANCES WOULD BE AVAILABLE.

3. IN A RELATED CONVERSATION, JORGE CARRILLO, UTC SEC GEN, SAID
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THAT HE UTC WAS GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF ORIT

AND SUGGESTED THAT A POSSIBLE SOLUTION FOR THE CONTINUING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF ORIT MIGHT BE THROUGH AN ARRANGEMENT WITH AIFLD. HE SAID THAT AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD ALLOW ORIT TO PROVIDE THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO MBR ORGS WHICH NOW ONLY AIFLD CAN PROVIDE, AND TO HAVE ORIT REPS THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA. CARRILLO EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS NOT CRITICIZING AIFLD, BUT ONLY SUGGESTING A POSSIBLE SOLUTION FOR ORIT'S FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

4. COMMENT: CUEVAS' UNOFFICIAL CANDIDACY AS ORIT SECGEN MAY BE AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP HIS OPTIONS OPEN IN THE EVENT HE IS NOT ELECTED TO THE COLOMBIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES ON THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY TICKET. (HE IS WORKING ACTIVELY ON BEHALF OF CONSERVATIVE PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ALVARO GOMEZ AND FOR HIS OWN CANDIDACY). HOWEVER, BOTH CUEVAS AND CARRILLO INSISTED TO THE LABATT THAT IF THE CONDITIONS CITED PARA 2 WERE MET CUEVAS WOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE ORIT POSITION IRRESPECTIVE OF WHAT HAPPENS ON THE LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE.
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